Page 1 of 16

FILE GOPY

MICHAEL J. GARCIA United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York By: MARA E. TRAGER (MT-4598)

Assistant United States Attorney

86 Chambers Street

New York, New York 10007

Tel. No.: (212) 637-2799 Fax No.: (212) 637-2702 mara.trager@usdoj.gov

CV 02484

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IRENE VALENTIN, as Mother and Natural Guardian, of AUTUMN VALENTIN and IRENE VALENTIN, Individually,

____X

Plaintiffs,

-against-

MORRIS HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER and BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL 08 Civ.

Index No. 350541/07

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendant Morris Heights Health Center (the "Morris Heights" or the "federal defendant") by its attorney, MICHAEL J. GARCIA, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, hereby removes the above-captioned action to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The grounds for removal are as follows:

In or about October 15, 2007 plaintiffs commenced an action in the 1. Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx, by filing a Summons and Verified Complaint under index number 350541-2007. A true and correct copy of the Summons and Verified Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. Pursuant to the Public Health Service Act, as amended by the Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act of 1995, 42 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., Morris Heights was deemed as of June 23, 1996 to be an employee of the United States Government. See 42 U.S.C. § 233(a), (g)-(n).

3. The Federal Tort Claims Act ("FTCA"), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 1402(b), 2401 (b) and 2671-2680, provides the exclusive remedy with respect to plaintiffs' claims against the federal defendant. See 42 U.S.C. § 233(a).

4. This action may be removed to this Court pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 233(c) and 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d)(2) because: (i) trial has not yet been had of this action; and (ii) this is a civil action brought against, inter alia, a party deemed to be an employee of the United States Government for purposes of the FTCA. A copy of the Certification of Michael J. Garcia, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, dated February 29, 2008, certifying that Morris Heights is an employee of the United States for purpose of plaintiffs' claims against it, is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Dated: New York, New York March 11, 2008

> MICHAEL J. GARCIA United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York

By:

MARA E. TRAGER (MT 4598)

Assistant United States Attorney

86 Chambers Street

New York, New York 10007

Tel.: (212) 637-2799 Fax: (212) 637-2702 mara.trager@usdoj.gov TO: William P. Weininger

445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1102

White Plains, NY 10601 Attorney for Plaintiffs

Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center

1770 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York 10457 Attn: Legal Department

EXHIBIT A

SUPREME COURT OF JTJE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX

Index# 350541/07 Date Filed: 10/15/07

IRENE VALENTIN as Mother and Natural Guardian of AUTUMN VALENTIN and TRENE VALENTIN, Individually,

Plaintiff designates Bronx County as the Place of Trial

Plaintiff.

The basis of the venue is Plaintiff's Residence

- against -

MORRIS HEIGITS HEALTH CENTER and BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER,

SUMMONS

Plaintiff resides at: 490 Southern Blvd., Apt

Delendants.

Bronx, New York 10455

To the above-named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: October 9, 2007

WILLIAMT. WEININGER

Attorney for Plaintiff

445 Hamilton Ave., Suite 1102 White Plains, New York 10601

(914) 328-5900

Defendants' Address: Morris Heights Health Center 70 West Burnside Avenue Bronx, New York 10453

Bronx Lebanon Hospital 1770 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York 10457

572758567, " \$5157 JOOZ-22-100

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW	YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX	

11 BRUNX Index No. 350541/07

IRENE VALENTIN as Mother and Natural Guardian of AUTUMN VALENTIN and IRENE VALENTIN, Individually,

Plaintiff,

Verified Complaint

- against -

MORRIS HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER and BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER,

Defendants.

Plaintiff, by their attorney, WILLIAM P. WEININGER, complaining of the defendants herein, allege upon information and belief as follows:

AS AND FOR A CAUSE OF ACTION

FIRST: At all times herein mentioned, plaintiff IRENE VALENTIN was and is the mother and natural guardian of plaintiff AUTUMN VALENTIN, an infant under the age of fourteen.

SECOND: That at all times herein mentioned, Plaintiffs were and are residents of the County of Bronx and State of New York.

THIRD: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant MARCIA JONES, (hereinafter "Jones") was and is a nurse midwife duly licensed to practice in the State of New York.

^{10/23/2007} Case 1:08-cv-02484-CM

FIFTII: That at all times herein mentioned defendant Jones was and is an agent servant and employee of defendant Morris Heights.

SIXTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER was and is a hospital and health care facility located in the County of Bronx, State of New York.

SEVENTH: That from on or about and between July 24, 2006 and December 23, 2006 the defendants, their agents, servants, and/or employees, were responsible to render, certain obstetrical, medical, nursing, technical, pediatric and other health care to plaintiffs Irene Valentin and Autumn Valentin.

EIGHTII: That at all times herein mentioned the obstetrical, medical, radiological, nursing, technical, pediatric and other health care rendered by the defendants was done so in a negligent and careless manner and deviated from accepted standards of care.

NINTH: That by reason of the foregoing, the plaintiff AUTUMN VALENTIN has and continues to suffer serious and debilitating injuries, was caused to and continues to experience pain and suffering, has experienced, and continues to experience, the loss of enjoyment of life, and has in other ways been economically,

physically and otherwise injured and damaged.

TENTH: That solely by reason of the foregoing, the plaintiff IRENE.

VALENTIN has and continues to suffer serious and debilitating injuries, was caused to and continues to experience pain and suffering, has experienced, and continues to experience, the loss of enjoyment of life, will be required to incur substantial medical, vocational, technical, nursing, hospital and other expenses for and on behalf of herself and the infant plaintiff Auturn Valentin, and has in other ways been injured and damaged.

ELEVENTH: That by reason of the foregoing, the infant plaintiff Autumn Valentin has been damaged in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

TWEEFTH: That by reason of the foregoing, the infant plaintiff IRENT VALENTIN has been damaged in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction

THIRTEENTH: The within action falls within one or more of the exceptions under CPLR Section 1600.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against the defendants. for an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts, together with costs, interest and disbursements.

Dated: White Plains, New York October 5, 2007

WILLIAM P. WEININGER

Attorney for Plantiffs

White Plains, New York 10601

(914) 328-5900

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX

____x Index No.:

IRENE VALENTIN as Mother and Natural Guardian of AUTUMN VALENTIN and IRENE VALENTIN, Individually,

Certificate of Merit

Plaintilf,

- against -

MORRIS HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER and BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER, Defendants.

WILLIAM P. WEININGER, an attorney admitted to practice law before the Courts of the State of New York, affirms the following to be true under penalties of perjury:

I am the attorney for the plaintiff. I have reviewed the facts and circumstances surrounding the above action and am fully familiar with same.

I have consulted with a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York, and whom I believe is knowledgeable as to the issues involved in this case.

On the basis of such review and discussion, I have concluded that there is a

reasonable basis for the commencement of this action.

Dated: White Plains, New York October 9, 2007

WILLIAM P. WEINLINGER

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEV	W YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX	

Index No.

IRENT VALENTIN as Mother and Natural Guardian of AUTUMN VALENTIN and IRENE VALENTIN, Individually,

Plaintiff,

Attorney's Verification

- against -

MORRIS HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER and BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER, Defendants.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:

COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

WILLIAM P. WEINTNGER, an attorney duly licensed and admitted to practice law in the courts of the State of New York, affirms the following:

That I am the attorney for the plaintiff in the within action.

I have read the foregoing VERIFIED COMPLAIN I and know the contents. The same is true to my own knowledge except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief. As to those matters I believe it to be true.

The reason this verification is made by me and not by plaintiff is that your affirmant maintains his office in a county other than where plaintiff resides.

I affirm that the foregoing statements are true under penalty of perjury.

1月/22/20日1

Case 1:08-cv-02484-CM Document 1 Filed 03/11/2008 Page 12 of 16

Duly affirmed: White Plains, New York October 9, 2007

iam P. Weininger

EXHIBIT B

MICHAEL J. GARCIA
United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York
By: MARA E. TRAGER (MT-4598)
Assistant United States Attorney
86 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007
Tel. No.: (212) 637-2799
Fax No.: (212) 637-2702
mara.trager@usdoj.gov

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IRENE VALENTIN, as Mother and Natural Guardian of AUTUMN VALENTIN and IRENE VALENTIN, Individually,

Plaintiffs, : <u>CERTIFICATION</u> : O8 Civ 02 484

Index No. 350541/07

CM

-against-

MORRIS HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER and, BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER,

Defendants.

I, MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, pursuant to the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 233 and 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d), and by virtue

of the authority vested in me by the Attorney General under 28 C.F.R. § 15.4, hereby certify, on

the information now available, that defendant Morris Heights Health Center ("Morris Heights")

was acting within the scope of employment at the time it rendered medical care to plaintiff Irene

Valentin between July 24, 2006 and December 4, 2006, and that, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 233(g),

Morris Heights is deemed to be an employee of the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

Dated:

New York, New York February 27, 2008

MICHAEL J. GARCIA

United States Attorney

Southern District of New York

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mara E. Trager, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, hereby certify that on March 11, 2008, I caused a copy of the foregoing Notice of Removal to be served upon the following by Express Mail, delivery charges pre-paid:

William P. Weininger 445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1102 White Plains, NY 10601

Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center 1770 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York 10457 Attn: Legal Department

Dated:

New York, New York

March 11, 2008

MARA E. TRAGER